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THURSDAY, 1ST JUNE 2023

TOPIC: THE LEVITES I

TEXT: NUMBERS 3:12

And I, behold, I have taken the Levites from among the children of Israel instead of all the firstborn that openeth the matrix among the children of Israel: therefore the Levites shall be mine; KJV

June is your blessed month ever! I am certain of this truth, and I boast in the faithfulness of our God. How have you been? I want to believe that you have progressively achieved consistency in your study of God's word. Don't worry, the Holy Spirit is in and with you, to help with your seeming challenges and weaknesses. Talk to him about everything, he will listen and give a prompt response through his word. Ensure you don't give up on God because he won't give up on you.

Last month was beautiful for me and I believe it was for you too. We learned of great and inspiring lessons from Timothy's life and his relationship with God under the auspices of Apostle Paul. We took cue from their various journeys as recorded in Acts of Apostles. The study ended on the note of God's spiritual blessing received through the laying on of hands and the Church pattern of living, being the ground and pillar of truth.

In a similar light, the Lord has called our heart to another truth in the scriptures which informed our topic for this month. We will glean on the wisdom of God about the foundation of our adoption as new creation which can be likened to how God appointed the tribe of Levites. I employ you to stay with me and learn from God this month. Your understanding will be broadened, and your perception will be nourished with accuracy and precision.

The tribe of Levi are descendants of Jacob, the twin brother of Esau. He is the Israel of God and the husband of Leah: who was given to Jacob instead of her younger sister Rachel (Genesis 29:15-25). Levi was the third Son of Leah (Genesis 29:34). When Jacob was about to die, he gathered his sons to bless them. There was no tangible blessing pronounced upon Levi alongside his elder brother Simeon. Rather, they received a rebuke and reprove from their Father because they slew the Schechemites. The son of Schechem defiled their sister Dinah (Genesis 34:26). Jacob cursed their intense anger and pronounced that they be scattered amidst their brethren (Genesis 49:5-7)

However, God had a purpose for the tribe of Levi. He choose them and made a convenant of peace with their descendants. Our focus is to study God's blessing on them and the significance of this blessing even as it is applicable to our lives in Christ Jesus. Follow me as I follow Christ. You are loved, choosen and appointed by God for the honour of his service on earth. Happy new month once again.

PRAYER

Lord, thank you for the sixth month. I ask that you equip me with strength with grace to fulfil purpose and understanding of the knowledge of your will in your purpose for my life, this month and beyond in Jesus' name. Amen

FRIDAY, 2ND JUNE 2023

TOPIC: THE LEVITES II

TEXT: EXODUS 13:2

Sanctify unto me all the firstborn, whatsoever openeth the womb among the children of Israel, both of man and of beast: it is mine. KJV

A significant commandment given by God to the children of Israel after their exodus from the land of Egypt, alongside the law of the passover is the sanctification of every firstborn and firstling of animal or firstfruit of the land. Whatsoever that openeth the womb is to be dedicated to the Lord as an offering. That is, such now become God's property or inheritance. It is an offering unto the Lord. God receives it as a blessing from his people. Let's read Exodus 13:11-13

And it shall be when the LORD shall bring thee into the land of the Canaanites, as he sware unto thee and to thy fathers, and shall give it thee, that thou shalt set apart unto the LORD all that openeth the matrix, and every firstling that cometh of a beast which thou hast; the males shall be the LORD 's. And every firstling of an ass thou shalt redeem with a lamb; and if thou wilt not redeem it, then thou shalt break his neck: and all the firstborn of man among thy children shalt thou redeem. KJV

God was particular about the first of either the fruit of man or fruit of animal. That of man was redeemed while the animal was offered unto the Lord. The reason behind this demand by God is revealed in the next two verses. Let's read verse 14-15; And it shall be when thy son asketh thee in time to come, saying, What is this? that thou shalt say unto him, By strength of hand the LORD brought us out from Egypt, from the house of bondage: and it came to pass, when Pharaoh would hardly let us go, that the LORD slew all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both the firstborn of man, and the firstborn of beast: therefore I sacrifice to the LORD all that openeth the matrix, being males; but all the firstborn of my children I redeem. KJV

When Pharoah would hardly let the people go, the Lord strike all the first of everything in the land both of man and beast, upon this action, all that openeth the matrix (womb) is dedicated unto the Lord however, that of a man is to be redeemed. Upon this truth, the Lord choose the tribe of Levi to become the firstborn in Israel as it is written in Numbers 3:12. Instead of all the firstborn that openeth the matrix among the children of Israel, the Lord received the Levites to be his. What a way to redeem everyone and a great privilege for the tribe of Levi.

By God's grace the Levites stepped into convenant with God. He called them his own, the people who was afore cursed by their Father, Jacob and were influenced by anger to destruction. God changed their destiny. I witnessed that believers in Christ are as God's Levites, the first of his kind.

PRAYER

Thank you, Lord, for you have chosen me in Christ Jesus. I am adopted as your child and become your heir in Christ. I am called to the service of your name, bearing the seal of your appointment just as the Levites. I am your own Lord, this I know. Amen

SATURDAY, 3RD JUNE 2023

TOPIC: THE LEVITES III

TEXT: MALACHAI 2:4

And ye shall know that I have sent this commandment unto you, that my covenant might be with Levi, saith the LORD of hosts. KJV

We have learned that God appointed the Levites to be his possession instead of all the firstborn of the Israelites. He commanded his people under the leadership of Moses to sanctify and separate every firstling that openeth the matrix unto him because of his dealings with the Egyptian's firstborns, of their sons and animals. Thus in Numbers 3:12-13, the Lord said; " I have taken the Levites from among the children of Israel instead of all the firstborn that openeth the matrix among the children of Israel; therefore the Levites shall be mine. Because all the firstborn are mine; for in the day that I smote all the firstborn in the land of Egypt I hallowed unto me all the firstborn in Israel, both man and beast; mine shall they be: I am the LORD".

Therefore, the Levites became God's possession. They represented all the firstborn in Israel. God hallowed the firstborn (which means they are made holy, sanctified, acceptable and are an important personality before him). All firstborn in Israel have a special place before God, they are the Lord's possession, which no one can claim. It is this highly exalted and sacred position that the Levites occupied by God's appointment and divine selection.

The course of the destiny, future and purpose of the Levites changed forever as a result of this holy appointment. Don't forget that their Father, Jacob, left them with a curse because of their misdeed. Can you imagine a great destiny that awaits the Levites which was truncated by anger. But glory to God, he rolled away the declaration of Jacob their Father. He choose them with eternal blessing. Thus, we can safely identify the Levites as God's sons. His first born, the one choosen by him; He adopt, care and gave them a sacred destiny.

It seems to me that we have received the same destiny in Christ. We have become God's children by adoption as it is written in Ephesians 1:5, it says "God has predestined us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ unto himself, according to the good pleasure of his will". The tribe of Levites signified the reality of born again children of God. Who are called, choosen, appointed and made heir of God and joint heirs with Christ. The Lord called us with a holy calling, to serve and honour him without fear and in holiness all the days of our lives. Isn't this the same with the Levites? Whose destiny was under the seige of anger with no hope for light in the future. But God, who loved him with an everlasting love made a convenant of life with him. The tribe of Levites are now the firstborn children of God. What a great privilege!

PRAYER

Lord, you have command my destiny before I was born. It has pleased you to reveal your son Jesus Christ in me, teach me not to confer with flesh and blood. Open my eyes to see the beauty of my destiny in you. Help me to see myself as you see me in your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen

SUNDAY, 4TH JUNE 2023

TOPIC: THE LEVITES IV

TEXT: NUMBERS 3:6

Bring the tribe of Levi near, and present them before Aaron the priest, that they may minister unto him. KJV

By the wisdom of God, I believe that the Levites should be called "The Favoured of God". They were chosen to represent the generations of the firstborns in all the twelve tribes that make up the nation of Israel. They became Israel's Ambassador, appointed for a special assignment before the God of Israel. The Lord declared concerning them; They are mine. He stamped this declaration with his name on it. He said "They shall be mine, for I am the LORD" (Numbers 3:13) Hallelujah!

Moreover, before the appointment of the tribe of Levites, Aaron and his four sons (Nadab, Abihu, Eleazer and Ithamar) were the only ones separated amidst the tribe of Levites to serve in the office of the Priest. The priesthood was commanded on their shoulder. However, Nadab and Abihu offered strange fire before God and died. Aaron was left with two sons (Leveticus 10:1-2). The assignment of the priesthood is such that cannot be sufficiently handled by three men. Thus, the Lord commanded Moses in Numbers 3:1-6 to bring near the tribe of Levi and present them before Aaron the priest, that they may minister unto him.

Their responsibilities is to keep his charge and that of the whole congregation before the tabernacle . They are to do the service of the tabernacle (Numbers 3:7). The Levites were saddled with an assignment, a purpose and a destiny. God extended the keeping and coordination of his tabernacle and his people to their hands alongside Aaron and his sons. They are to submit to Aaron in that he was ordained first, alongside Moses, to be his mouthpiece while Moses act as a God unto him (Exodus 4:14-17).

The responsibilities of the Levites was further spelt out in Numbers 3:8, it says; "And they shall keep all the instruments of the tabernacle of the congregation, and the charge of the children of Israel, to do the service of the tabernacle". Therefore, the Levites were called unto service. They are to serve God and his people, care for the tabernacle and the instruments therein as they submit their work before Aaron. They are called to be a people under authority.

We can safely draw a deep connection of our position in Christ Jesus as the same with the Levites. We are called to serve as God's holy nation, his peculiar people and royal priesthood. We are not without authority. Christ is our Lord and saviour and in our various churches, our Pastors are authorities over us. We are to serve in different capacities alongside with them, knowing that God demands our submission to authority and also value our work in his vineyard. Great is our destiny, like the Levites, we represent God's best, his ambassador. Hallelujah!

PRAYER

Lord, make me a worthy ambassador of Christ. Teach me to represent your image and glory in the right perspective before men. Equip me with wisdom to bear your name without shame in Jesus' name. Amen

MONDAY, 5TH JUNE 2023

TOPIC: THE LEVITES V

TEXT: NUMBERS 8:11

and Aaron shall offer the Levites before the LORD for an offering of the children of Israel, that they may execute the service of the LORD. KJV

Haven described the responsibilities of the Levites in the tabernacle, God established their submission to Aaron with a sense of assistance in service to the people. Let's read Numbers 3:9; And thou shalt give the Levites unto Aaron and to his sons: they are wholly given unto him out of the children of Israel. KJV

Thus, the Levites were appointed by the Lord to submit to Aaron, the Priest and carry out certain designated functions in the tabernacle. In a more clarified terms, the same message was communicated in Numbers 8:19: And I have given the Levites as a gift to Aaron and to his sons from among the children of Israel, to do the service of the children of Israel in the tabernacle of the congregation, and to make an atonement for the children of Israel: that there be no plague among the children of Israel, when the children of Israel come nigh unto the sanctuary. KJV

The Levites was given as a gift to Aaron and his sons to do the service of the children of Israel in the tabernacle. Their service is to ensure that they carry out the atonement on behalf of the people and to avoid plague from breaking out upon the people. What a sense of duty and responsibility!

The Lord didn't leave them without a defined duty to describe the importance of their appointment. He choose them to represent all the firstborn of Israel and commit into their hands the work of service in the tabernacle. He called them unto a holy calling, separated into his use and vessels unto his honour. Without fail, God had a defined purpose, plan and assignment for them. However, he presented an order of leadership, control, direction and submission; in that, he affirmed that he gave the Levites to Aaron and his sons as a gift.

In Christ Jesus, we are described as his workmanship created unto good works, which has been ordained that we should work in them (Ephesians 2:10). There is the sense of a work to be done as believers. We are not saved into complacency, rather to do the work of God. Therefore, just as the Levites are representative before God to do his service, we are the representative of Christ on earth to fulfil his will and the establishment of his Kingdom.

We are Ambassadors for Christ, to carry out his work of reconciliation on earth under the authority of Christ and the leadership of the church. There is a service unto the Lord, You are in a called out purpose. Do you know this?

PRAYER

Lord, I ask that the eyes of my understanding is enlightened to behold the beauty you have mapped out for my life in service to your name and the dignity of the gospel. Just like the Levites, help me to understand my calling and identity in Christ Jesus. Amen

TUESDAY, 6TH JUNE 2023

TOPIC: THE LEVITES VI

TEXT: NUMBERS 8:13

And thou shalt set the Levites before Aaron, and before his sons, and offer them for an offering unto the LORD. KJV

The Levites was separated and purified before they began the service they were called unto. Numbers 8:5-12 explain in details the purification process they went through and their presentation before the people and before God. Regardless of their status and earthly destiny as defined by their Father, the Lord choose them and appoint them for his work. As it is written in 1Corinthians 1:26-29; let's read:

For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called : but God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; and base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea , and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: that no flesh should glory in his presence. KJV

The Lord choose the unlikely and the humanly unworthy elements to defy the order of things and the wisdom of this world. Who could have taught that the Lord will choose Levites, considering the pronouncement of their Father upon their life. The Levites can't glory in their capacity or ability but in God's mercies and faithfullness. The one who made them a representative of other tribe to serve him and his people all the days of their lives.

The man who has been called out of darkness into God's marvelous light, is saved from eternal damnation. Such, has received the mercy and grace of God that saves to the uttermost. It is not by his power, might or desire but by God's grace and faith in his power to save. Therefore, just like the Levites, you are choosen by God to serve him and his people. This understanding must shape your world view and define the reason for your living.

The tabernacle of God, where the Levites are to carry out the service of God is where the presence of God resides and the people gather to worship the Lord God Jehovah. Our Churches can represent this kind of gathering but with the accurate knowledge that God has moved into our hearts by his Spirit. And as we gather to worship his name, we all serve in sincerity, truth and commitment to his work and will on earth. You have a purpose; you are God's firstborn by faith in Christ Jesus. His Son and He is your Father. Live unto his honour daily!

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, here I am, send me. You have command your word of Grace and I have believed in your truth. Help me to go wherever your will is and to serve with humility, submission and dedication in your house in Jesus' name. Amen

WEDNESDAY, 7TH JUNE 2023

TOPIC: THE LEVITES VII

TEXT: NUMBERS 18:1

And the LORD said unto Aaron, Thou and thy sons and thy father's house with thee shall bear the iniquity of the sanctuary: and thou and thy sons with thee shall bear the iniquity of your priesthood. KJV

And thy brethren also of the tribe of Levi, the tribe of thy father, bring thou with thee, that they may be joined unto thee, and minister unto thee: but thou and thy sons with thee shall minister before the tabernacle of witness. Numbers 18:2 KJV

We have established by the knowledge of God's words that the Levites were chosen by God and given to Aaron and his sons as a gift, to minister unto the Lord in the tabernacle of the congregation. It is important that we note the position of Aaron as the priest appointed by God alongside his sons (Numbers 3:1-3). God gave the priesthood as an everlasting covenant to Aaron and his sons (Exodus 40:15). The Lord commanded Moses to anoint them with his holy oil and consecrate them to serve as priest and minister to his people, thus, the priesthood was dedicated to them as an eternal assignment (Exodus 28:41& 29:7-9).

However, we must note that Aaron and his sons are also part of the tribe of Levi, the Lord only put a difference between the assignment he committed to them and that which he called the other sons of Levi to do. Aaron and his sons were single handedly choosen by God for a service of an everlasting priesthood while the Lord called others in the same tribe of Levi to be the representative of the firstborn in Israel. Therefore, God reintegrate in an orderly form the assignment he commit to the hands of the Levites, which is to assist the Priest (Aaron and his sons) in the service of the congregation as we have studied in the past days.

Numbers 18:1-2 states the same instruction all over again with affirmation that Aaron and his sons will bear the iniquity of the sanctuary while their brethren, the tribe of Levi shall join them to minister to the people in the tabernacle of the congregation and are committed to serve in the tabernacle of witness. Numbers 18:3 explain further the duties of the Levites, it says; And they shall keep thy charge, and the charge of all the tabernacle: only they shall not come nigh the vessels of the sanctuary and the altar, that neither they, nor ye also, die. KJV

Thus, there is a defined work to be done with instructions as guidiance. In the same light, we as children of God are called to serve and assist in God's house even when we are not an ordained Pastor. God had given us all as assistance in one means or the other to our pastors and leaders who are in the stead of a Priest, as Aaron and his sons. It is important that we submit to their direction and serve as unto the Lord Christ. Are you serving God faithfully in your church?

PRAYER

Lord, I ask that you help and strengthen my understanding of service, work and ministry in my church. Help me to see myself as one ordained by the Lord to take charge of assignments and duties in my church and every gathering of believers in Jesus' name. Amen

THURSDAY, 8TH JUNE 2023

TOPIC: THE LEVITES VIII

TEXT: NUMBERS 18:4

And they shall be joined unto thee and keep the charge of the tabernacle of the congregation, for all the service of the tabernacle: and a stranger shall not come nigh unto you. KJV

To avoid confusion, misappropriation of assignment or insubordination, the Lord clarified the essence of the Levites submission to Aaron and his sons with requisite focus and purpose. Our main text established that Aaron and his sons as they serve in the Priest office are to receive their brethren the Levites as God's gifts unto them and they are to keep the charge of the tabernacle of the congregation and are committed to do all the service of the tabernacle .

Aaron and his sons are committed to do this: "And ye shall keep the charge of the sanctuary, and the charge of the altar: that there be no wrath any more upon the children of Israel." Numbers 18:5 KJV

The Lord affirmed once again that He his solely responsible for the calling and appointment of the Levites and he gave them unto Aaron and his sons as a gift, to assist and to do the service of the tabernacle (Numbers 18:6). What a great honour and privilege to serve God with a defined knowledge that he choose us for this purpose.

The Levites received the rare privilege of divine ordination without contention. There was an eternal appointment that is to last as long as the tabernacle remain. In the same light and understanding, our bodies has become the temple (tabernacle) of the living God. We are the habitation of God, we house his Spirit. Thus, we serve the Lord as a royal priesthood, a holy nation and peculiar people. We serve as not unto men but unto the Lord Christ.

Alongside with those who are ahead of us, Pastors, Reverend, Bishop, Evangelist and many others. We are not like those who are waiting for the outpour of oil on them before they will accept and run with God's assignment upon their life as new creation in Christ Jesus. By the understanding of our new life in Christ, we serve, knowing that we are called for this purpose. Whether ordained or not, we have the duty to serve God's people in God's house.

1Corinthians 15:58 says; Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord. KJV Our Labor in God's house is not in vain. We have hope in this world and that which is to come. Therefore, we do not live a rebellious life, we submit to spiritual authority and render service in the house of God as one who is appointed to do so steadfastly. You are called to serve!

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, you came to this world to serve and give your life a ransom for many. Help me to live a life of service and servanthood to the glory of your name in Jesus' name. Amen

FRIDAY, 9TH JUNE 2023

TOPIC: THE LEVITES IX

TEXT: NUMBERS 1:49

Only thou shalt not number the tribe of Levi, neither take the sum of them among the children of Israel: KJV

The more I study, the better I realise the extent of the assignment God committed to the hands of the Levites as an assistance to the priest in the work of the tabernacle. While the Lord command Moses to number each tribe of the children of Israel, the tribe of Levi was exempted. He asked that they shouldn't be numbered because of the peculiarity of his call upon them. Let's read Numbers 1:50;

but thou shalt appoint the Levites over the tabernacle of testimony, and over all the vessels thereof, and over all things that belong to it: they shall bear the tabernacle, and all the vessels thereof; and they shall minister unto it and shall encamp round about the tabernacle. KJV

Just as we have learned from the beginning of this study, the Levites are appointed to minister unto the Lord in the service of the tabernacle (which is also referred to as the tabernacle of testimony or witness). This was the sanctuary that the Lord commanded the children of Israel to build for him, so he can dwell among them, with the instruction that it must be reared up according to the pattern seen by Moses on the mount (Exodus 25:8-9).

Therefore, the tabernacle represents the meeting place of God with the children of Israel. It has different section which divided the Holy from the most holy (Exodus 26:30-34). Aaron and his sons, who was first separated by God to minister unto him as Priests, from the tribe of Levi are committed to carry out the service of offerings and sacrifices unto God in the tabernacle, while the Levites were given to them as a gift (to assist) in the order of the tabernacle of congregation. The are responsible for the instruments and the carriage of the tabernacle from one place to another as the children of Israel continued in their journey. Numbers 1:51 explain this truth, let's read; And when the tabernacle setteth forward, the Levites shall take it down: and when the tabernacle is to be pitched, the Levites shall set it up: and the stranger that cometh nigh shall be put to death. KJV

It is crystal clear that God has an order in the worship of his name, his work and the consecration of his people. Inorder to ensure that all are done with clarity of purpose, he choose men and appoint certain people for the course of his work. The Levites are choosen as firstborn, to serve the Lord and minister in his name. Your life isn't an exception. Our bodies is the temple of the Lord, we are his living tabernacle that we might live in honour to his name. Hallelujah!

PRAYER

Lord, I ask that you fill my heart with the depth of your will on earth, that I might live to serve and honour your name in the midst of your people in Jesus' name. Amen

SATURDAY, 10TH JUNE 2023

TOPIC: THE LEVITES X

TEXT: NUMBERS 1:52

And the children of Israel shall pitch their tents, every man by his own camp, and every man by his own standard, throughout their hosts. KJV

God gave an order to the manner at which all the tribes of Israel should pitch their tents, one after the other to ensure togetherness, oneness and coordination. However, because of the peculiarity of the tribe of Levi, the Lord commanded that they pitch their tents round the tabernacle. Let's read Numbers 1:53;

But the Levites shall pitch round about the tabernacle of testimony, that there be no wrath upon the congregation of the children of Israel: and the Levites shall keep the charge of the tabernacle of testimony. KJV

In order of assignment and commitment to service, the Levites are to pitch round the tabernacle. All other tribes were not appointed to the service of God's sanctuary but the Levites and to avoid the sacredness of God to break out on the people, the Levites are to stay close to the tabernacle. And, not only this, but to ensure that they carry out their duties promptly.

I also perceive that their nearness to the tabernacle, will help to keep their heart centered on God's work and bring about a clearcut focus. Because they are not far from the work God gave them to do, it will help them to constantly remember that their life is different from others and they can't not live a careless or frivolous life.

It is written in 2Corinthians 6:14-18 that believers are light, temple of the living God, we are Christ; therefore we can't unite with darkness, have a part with belial nor agree with idols. We have a clearcut focus and we have become the temple of the living God. A living sanctuary which the Lord has pitched and not man. Thus, it is written;

.... for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore Come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, And touch not the unclean thing; And I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, And ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

The Levites were separated unto the Lord. We have received a separated (holy, consecrated and sanctified) life in Christ. We have a duty to serve the Lord Christ. It is important that we have a sense of responsibility towards the church of God. That's our primary place of assignment.

PRAYER

Thank you Lord for I have a high calling in Christ Jesus. I know whose servant I am and I receive strength to live in honour of my master and Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen

SUNDAY, 11TH JUNE 2023

TOPIC: THE LEVITES XI

TEXT: DEUTERONOMY 10:8

At that time the LORD separated the tribe of Levi, to bear the ark of the covenant of the LORD, to stand before the LORD to minister unto him, and to bless in his name, unto this day. KJV

Two days ago, we learned that the service of the Levites before the Lord in the tabernacle of the congregation is to ensure the orderly worship of God, and most importantly, when the children of Israel move from one place to another, they are incharge of carrying the tent.

The different family that makes up the tribe of Levi were divided and apportioned different section in the tabernacle. When the cloud of glory which usually rest upon the tabernacle is lifted, the children of Israel knew that it is time to journey to another place. The Levites are in charge of carrying the tent after Aaron and his sons have dismantled the instruments separated unto God, the ones used in the most holy place within the veil. By one family to the other, they are saddled with the responsibility to carry in holiness and consecration the vessels and instrument of the tabernacle. They in turn set it up again, when they get to the appointed destination by God.

For instance, the lineage of Kohath were responsible to carry the most holy vessels when the camp is to move from one place to the other. Numbers 4:1-15 record the order at which this is to be done. Verse 15 says; And when Aaron and his sons have made an end of covering the sanctuary, and all the vessels of the sanctuary, as the camp is to set forward; after that, the sons of Kohath shall come to bear it: but they shall not touch any holy thing, lest they die. These things are the burden of the sons of Kohath in the tabernacle of the congregation. KJV. In the same procession, each lineage that make up the tribe of Levi, were given specific assignments. You can read Numbers chapter 5-7.

This responsibility was reiterated in Deuteronomy 10:8 to establish that God choose them to stand before him, to minister to him and bear his name. The Levites has a special place before God that truly depicts the essence of God, who choose them as the firstborn of all the tribes of Israel and call them his own. He said the Levites shall be mine.

In the light of this, our lives as children of God, isn't an exception. There is a Kingdom that is delivered to us by our Lord and saviour Jesus Christ and we minister before him to bear his name and as a witness before all men. Thus, we serve in his house (the church, fellowship or any gathering of believers) and we live unto the praise of his name. He is ours and we are His!

PRAYER

Thank you, Lord for you are the vine and I am a branch in you. I exist because you the vine upholds me. Without you, I can do nothing. Lord, help me to bear fruit unto the praise of your name in Jesus' name. Amen

MONDAY, 12TH JUNE 2023

TOPIC: THE LEVITES XII

TEXT: DEUTERONOMY 10:9

Wherefore Levi hath no part nor inheritance with his brethren; the LORD is his inheritance, according as the LORD thy God promised him.

The Lord stood as the Father of the Levites and gave himself unto him as an inheritance. This should strike a sense of understanding in us. Romans 8:16-17 says; The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: and if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together. KJV

As believers in Christ, it is the Holy Spirit who witness and establish our identity that we belong to God. The Spirit of God is what make us children of God. Thus, we can boldly declare that God has called us his own with a means of recognition-His Holy spirit. We belong to God and He is our Father. We receive our inheritance from him. We are heirs of God, we have no part in this world. Hallelujah!

This is a similar reward promised by God to the Levites. While the other tribes had a share in the land of their inheritance, God commanded that the Levites be given no inheritance. For he has claimed them to be his own and He is their inheritance. What joy to inherit God! Others can have landed property and physical claim, God gave the Levites an intangible substance that cannot fade away.

He called them to serve him and lead in his worship before the people and he deem it proper to reward their labour of love with himself because they live for him. Dear child of God, He who live for God, inherit God. I will not have you ignorant, God provide sufficiently for the daily needs and welfare of the Levites (we will study this much later) but refuse that they share in Israel's inheritance.

You can be certain that your bread and water is sure as you serve the Lord faithfully in various capacity. Yet, you must understand that your reward is not from man. It is okay for people to honour and try to appreciate your effort in God's service but that's not for you to cast your totality upon. He who sees himself as God's servant, will live with the understanding that God is his rewarder.

Hebrews 11:6 says; He that come to God, must believe that He is and he is a rewarder to them that diligently seek him. God rewards therefore, serve him diligently. Serve in your church, serve under the authority of your pastors and leaders. You can also serve as a pastor as the Lord has called and continue to bear the image of Christ. Your labor of love isn't in vain.

PRAYER

Lord cloth me with the strength for service, the zeal for accomplishment and the heart of a servant. Help me to walk in meekness and patience unto the glory of your name in Jesus' name. Amen

TUESDAY, 13TH JUNE 2023

TOPIC: THE LEVITES XIII

TEXT: DEUTERONOMY 18:1

The priests the Levites, and all the tribe of Levi, shall have no part nor inheritance with Israel: they shall eat the offerings of the LORD made by fire, and his inheritance. KJV

Therefore, shall they have no inheritance among their brethren: the LORD is their inheritance, as he hath said unto them. Deuteronomy 18:2 KJV

Yesterday, we learned that God commanded Moses to give no physical inheritance to the Levites and the Priests. He gave himself as their inheritance and possession. Moreover, he didn't leave them without proper provision for their needs. The main text above established that they are to eat the offerings of the Lord made by fire. Therefore, God gave all the offering the children of Israel brought to the temple, to the Priest and a specified portion to the Levites.

Numbers 18:8-20 gave a detailed account of all the different types of offerings the Lord commanded the Priest, to receive from the children of Israel and established that it belongs to them. Specifically, verse 19 says; All the heave offerings of the holy things, which the children of Israel offer unto the LORD, have I given thee, and thy sons and thy daughters with thee, by a statute forever: it is a covenant of salt for ever before the LORD unto thee and to thy seed with thee. KJV. Thus, God gave the offerings of the people to the Priest and his family forever.

But for the Levites, who was given to Aaron (the Priest) as gifts, the Lord commanded that the tenth of all the children of Israel be given to them. The tenth of the heave offering, was to be given to them as the reward for their service before the Lord. However, they are to give back to the Lord the tenth of the tenth portion they receive as a reward. Numbers 18:26 says;

Thus, speak unto the Levites, and say unto them, When ye take of the children of Israel the tithes which I have given you from them for your inheritance, then ye shall offer up an heave offering of it for the LORD, even a tenth part of the tithe. KJV

Therefore, the Levites are commanded to give unto the Priest, even as they receive a portion from the Lord of the offering of the children of Israel. Without mincing words, the Lord has called the Levites to a life of consecration, that which is void of covetousness and selfishness. And just as the Levites, we are to serve the Lord with a open heart and hands. Not necessarily that the church pay for the service we render, but the attitude of giving to the Lord while he blesses the work of our hands. We are called to a life of astute commitment towards God and his people. Serve the Lord heartily.

PRAYER

Thank you, Father for you is my inheritance. My possession and provision. In you I lack no good thing and you are able to make all grace abound towards me in Jesus' name. Amen

WEDNESDAY, 14TH JUNE 2023

TOPIC: THE LEVITES XIV

TEXT: NUMBERS 18:24

But the tithes of the children of Israel, which they offer as an heave offering unto the LORD, I have given to the Levites to inherit: therefore I have said unto them, Among the children of Israel they shall have no inheritance. KJV

Do you agree with me that God takes care of his children? He is a Father who makes provision ahead of time. He does not leave his own without support. Psalms 23:1 says; The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. Isn't the Lord the Father of the Levites as we have studied? He is the shepherd's shepherd, the one who call into his vineyard and pay those who serve in his will. He is our shepherd and none of his children will lack any good thing.

He commanded the tithes to be given to Levites and also instruct that they gave a tenth portion of that which they receive to the priest as a heave offering. What is the essence of this instruction? We found the understanding in Numbers 18: "Thus speak unto the Levites, and say unto them, when ye take of the children of Israel the tithes which I have given you from them for your inheritance, then ye shall offer up an heave offering of it for the LORD, even a tenth part of the tithe. And this your heave offering shall be reckoned unto you, as though it were the corn of the threshing floor, and as the fulness of the winepress". Numbers 18:26-27 KJV

Thus, ye also shall offer an heave offering unto the LORD of all your tithes, which ye receive of the children of Israel; and ye shall give thereof the LORD 's heave offering to Aaron the priest. Out of all your gifts ye shall offer every heave offering of the LORD, of all the best thereof, even the hallowed part thereof out of it. Numbers 18:28-29 KJV

Therefore, thou shalt say unto them, When ye have heaved the best thereof from it, then it shall be counted unto the Levites as the increase of the threshing floor, and as the increase of the winepress. And ye shall eat it in every place, ye and your households: for it is your reward for your service in the tabernacle of the congregation. And ye shall bear no sin by reason of it, when ye have heaved from it the best of it: neither shall ye pollute the holy things of the children of Israel, lest ye die. Numbers 18:30-32 KJV

Please, read all the text above carefully and thoughtfully. You will realise that God institute a pattern of blessing and giving as he instruct the Levites to give the tenth portion out of the tithes they received from the children of Israel. To the end that they bear no sin and not pollute the holy things of God. The remaining is counted unto them as the increase of the threshing floor and the fullness of the winepress. As you serve the Lord be mindful never to hold back, learn to give in abundance. The Lord require you to learn that it is more blessed to give then to receive.

PRAYER

Lord, teach my heart the essence of giving even as I serve in sincerity and truth. Open my eyes to understand the immeasurable blessing embedded in giving in Jesus' name. Amen

THURSDAY, 15TH JUNE 2023

TOPIC: CUSTODIAN OF GOD'S LAW I

TEXT: DEUTERONOMY 31:9

And Moses wrote this law and delivered it unto the priests the sons of Levi, which bare the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and unto all the elders of Israel. KJV

The duty of the Levites as ministers of God in the tabernacle of the congregation cut across the sacred responsibility of God's laws. They are the tribe choosen of God to handle his command, statues, laws and instruction with all carefulness. They are to learn of the law and teach the people of God. Thus, while Moses, the servant of the Lord documented the instructions of God towards his people, he committed the written document to the hands of the Levites and elders. He instructed that the book must be read to the people at a specific time.

Deuteronomy 31:10-11 says; And Moses commanded them, saying, At the end of every seven years, in the solemnity of the year of release, in the feast of tabernacles, when all Israel is come to appear before the LORD thy God in the place which he shall choose, thou shalt read this law before all Israel in their hearing. KJV

The Levites alongside the elders are committed to the reading of God's law to the hearing of the people. Quite a lengthy document full of different instructions and principle to guide the conduct of the people. They were commanded to read it before all the congregation. Deuteronomy 31:12-13 says;

Gather the people together, men, and women, and children, and thy stranger that is within thy gates, that they may hear, and that they may learn, and fear the LORD your God, and observe to do all the words of this law: and that their children, which have not known anything, may hear, and learn to fear the LORD your God, as long as ye live in the land whither ye go over Jordan to possess it. KJV

No one was left behind in the hearing of the Law. Even the children which have not known anything, were commanded to be present during the reading of the law. All these is to ensure that the people learn to fear the Lord and walk in his ways. Dear child of God, you have the responsibility to learn of God's law and teach it to others. This is the component of spiritual growth. Like the Levites, God has committed the sacredness of his words to your hands, that you may be acquainted with it, act upon it and teach others to learn of God's words.

Joshua 1:8 says; This book of the law shall not depart out of thine mouth, but thou shall meditate therein, day and night; that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein, for then thou shall make thine way prosperous and then, thou shall have good success. You are the custodian of God's words, learn it, live in it and teach it. This is your whole duty.

PRAYER

Thank you, Father. Your word is the joy and rejoicing of my heart, for I am called by your name oh Lord. Help me to accept your words as one who have found great spoil in Jesus' name. Amen

FRIDAY, 16TH JUNE 2023

TOPIC: CUSTODIAN OF GOD'S LAW II

TEXT: EZRA 7:10

For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the law of the LORD, and to do it , and to teach in Israel statutes and judgments. KJV

Ezra was one who stood amidst his brethren during the time of the return of Israel's captivity from Babylon to Jerusalem. His lineage was traced down to Aaron the priest in Ezra 7:1-5 and verse 6 established that he was a ready scribe in the law of Moses. "this Ezra went up from Babylon; and he was a ready scribe in the law of Moses, which the LORD God of Israel had given: and the king granted him all his request, according to the hand of the LORD his God upon him."

However, in verse 10, despite his knowledge in the law as a ready scribe, Ezra took upon himself the challenge to learn more about God's law and teach the people. "For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the law of the LORD, and to do it, and to teach in Israel statutes and judgments."

You cannot know too much of God's word. There is no professional child of God. Nothing of such exist. The Bible describes the child of God, whose heart is ready to learn, willing to receive and able to dispense all that he has been taught in meekness and with diligence. 2Timothh 2:15 says; Study to show yourself approved unto God, a workman that needs not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth".

There is no escape route in this kingdom. The word of God is the standard and a priority that cannot be substantiate for something else. Inspite of Ezra's knowledge in the law of Moses, as a ready scribe (one who has learned and become approved in the law), he didn't relax. Rather, he determined to seek the law of the Lord, to do it and to teach in Israel, statues and judgement. His desire for the knowledge of God remain healthy.

Psalms 42:1 says; 'As the Hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, o God. What is your heart panting after? Let it be the pure milk of God's word. Don't get tired, do not relax. Soak yourself in the knowledge of God's word. Seek him daily, let your heart yearn for God with a firm desire as you declare; "your face do I seek daily Lord'

Ezra been a Levite, understood his position and the call of God upon his life. In the midst of restructuring and rebuilding of the wall of Jerusalem, He took the lead with other Levites and priest to give the people a voice of direction and teach them God's law. He was a worthy custodian of God's law. This is life and purpose, seek to acquire the knowledge of God's word. Live in it and teach it.

PRAYER

Father, give me wisdom to learn of your words, give me an understanding heart to receive your truth and a hearing ear, to follow your precepts. Help me to be a worthy custodian of your law in Jesus' name. Amen

SATURDAY, 17TH JUNE 2023

TOPIC: CUSTODIAN OF GOD'S LAW III

TEXT: NEHEMIAH 8:1

And all the people gathered themselves together as one man into the street that was before the water gate; and they spake unto Ezra the scribe to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the LORD had commanded to Israel. KJV

Yesterday, we started out to understand the disposition of Ezra, the Levite towards God's assignment in his hands. In the midst of the reconstruction of the wall of Jerusalem under Nehemiah, he stood out as one, who understood God's words and was committed to learn more, act on the knowledge there in and also, teach others.

Ezra did as he purposed in his heart with the good hand of the Lord upon him. After the completion of the rebuilding, it was needful that the people of God should rededicate their lives and start with a new beginning in the Lord. Thus, they demand that Ezra, the scribe read to their ears, all that the Lord commanded Moses and was documented in the book of the law.

So Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly of men, women and all who could listen with understanding, on the first day of the seventh month. Then he read from it, in front of the open square which was in front of the Water Gate, from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and women, those who could understand; and all the people listened carefully to the Book of the Law. Nehemiah 8:2-3 AMP

Ezra read all that was written in the book of the law from morning till mid-day, and the people listened with rapt attention. Isn't this an awesome diligence! As one who understood that God has made him a custodian of his words, he was willing to give the time needed to read before the people, without rushing. He read diligently and the people listened carefully.

Ezra was present with thirteen other men, who are Levites to explain and make the people understood what was read from the book of the Law. All of them were Levites, in whose hands the Lord committed the sacredness of his words. "So they read from the Book of the Law of God, translating and explaining it so that the people understood the reading." Nehemiah 8:8 AMP

Dear child of God, the integrity of God's word is committed to your hands. You have the responsibility to learn it, understand it and be able to communicate the truths therein to others. It will take time, diligence, determination and a ready heart. Be willing to make these sacrifices to fulfil the desire of God for your life. Be a worthy custodian!

PRAYER

Thank you, Father. I ask for the grace to learn of your word. Lord, teach me and give me understanding as you usher my feet to teachers of your word. Help me to have a willing and open heart to receive the truth of your words in Jesus' name. Amen

SUNDAY, 18TH JUNE 2023

TOPIC: CUSTODIAN OF GOD'S LAW IV

TEXT: NEHEMIAH 8:8

So, they read from the Book of the Law of God, translating and explaining it so that the people understood the reading. AMP

You will agree with me that Ezra and the other Levites, did a great work. After Ezra read from morning till mid-day, others joined him and they took their time to translate and explain all that was read to the people, such that, they understood.

With this understanding comes enlightenment. The people saw the extent to which they have lived contrary to God's law. These brought tears to their eyes. They wept!

Then Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest with the scribes, who taught the people said to them, "This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn or weep." For all the people were weeping when they heard the words of the Law. Nehemiah 8:9 AMP

They quieted the people! Nehemiah, Ezra and all the Levites who taught the people, went further to encourage their hearts. They told them to stop weeping but rather rejoice. Then Ezra said to them, "Go [your way], eat the rich festival food, drink the sweet drink, and send portions to him for whom nothing is prepared; for this day is holy to our Lord. And do not be worried, for the joy of the Lord is your strength and your stronghold." Nehemiah 8:10 AMP

The people thought that weariness and sorrow for their wrongdoing which they heard from the understanding they received through the explanation and the reading of the law, is the proper reaction. However, they were quieted by the Levites, who knew better. All the Lord require is to have their understanding enlightened. This has taken place by the power of his words. It takes understanding of God's word to act on it.

So, the Levites quieted all the people, saying, "Be still, for the day is holy; do not be worried." Then all the people went on their way to eat, to drink, to send portions [of food to others] and to celebrate a great festival, because they understood the words which had been communicated to them. Nehemiah 8:11-12 AMP

They celebrated and rejoice because they understood all that was written in the law which was communicated to them. This is joy indeed! Thank God for men, who gave themselves to God's law and was able to communicate the understanding of it to the people. God need your heart, time, willingness and diligence. There is the work of the ministry at hand and the truth of God's words must be taught. Learn God's word! Be a worthy custodian!

PRAYER

Lord, open my heart to understand that which you are doing with my life. Help me to give myself wholly and completely to learn your word. Fill me with hunger and thirst for righteousness in Jesus' name. Make me a worthy custodian of your law. Amen

MONDAY, 19TH JUNE 2023

TOPIC: CUSTODIAN OF HIS WILL I

TEXT: DEUTERONOMY 33:8

Moses said this about the tribe of Levi: "O Lord, you have given your Thummim and Urim—the sacred lots— to your faithful servants the Levites. You put them to the test at Massah and struggled with them at the waters of Meribah. NLT

When we commence our study at the beginning of this month, we traced the tribe of Levi, who is the fourth son of Jacob and established that instead of blessing, by the outright anger he and Simeon expressed, they received a sharp rebuke and a curse from their Father. However, the Lord choose them with a convenat of peace and an everlasting priesthood. They became the Firstborn children, representing Israel as a nation before God and bearing the duties of the work in the tabernacle of the congregation.

Another striking occurrence took place when Moses the man of God was to die and the Lord instructed him to anoint Josha the son of Nun in his stead. He gave the children of Israel precepts and instruction to guide their affairs after his demise. With this, he blessed each tribe in accordance to the will of God. For the tribe of Levi, he began with the blessing as we read in the text above. He affirmed that the Lord gave the tribe of Levi the Urim and Thummim (God's sacred lot). To appreciate this blessing, it's important to know what they represented.

Exodus chapter twenty-eight gave a detailed explanation of God's direction in the composition of the holy garment for Aaron and his sons, who were separated unto the priest office. The garment is to have a work of an ephod, a breastplate, girdle, robe, broidered cloth and mitre. The ephod is the most significant component of the garment. It is carried with it the breastplate upon which the Urim and Thummim was inscribed. On the breastplate is inscribed all the names of the tribes of Israel. The priest is expected to wear it as he goes before the presence of the Lord, for a continual remembrance. However, the Urim and Thummim is for judgement and counsel.

In the breast piece of judgment, you shall put the Urim (Lights) and the Thummim (Perfections) [to be used for determining God's will in a matter]. They shall be over Aaron's heart whenever he goes before the Lord, and Aaron shall always carry the judgment (verdict, judicial decisions) of the sons of Israel over his heart before the Lord. Exodus 28:30 AMP

Thus, God commit unto the Levites (the priest) the sacredness of his judgement. From him comes direction and guidance for the people. He is the custodian of God's will and counsel. God choose men to bear the burden of the knowledge of his will inorder to give light and perfection to his people. Do you know that you are the Light of the world? The plan of God hasn't change. Believers are custodian of God's will by the presence of his Holy Spirit. Like the Levites, the Lord has committed to your hands the sacredness of his counsel, that you may lead your life in his light and be a path of light to others. Be cumbered with the weight of your destiny!

PRAYER

Father, you are my guiding light and my perfection, let me not neglect the beauty of your counsel in me. Help me to live with the consciousness of your will in Jesus' name. Amen

TUESDAY, 20TH JUNE 2023

TOPIC: CUSTODIAN OF HIS WILL II

TEXT: EXODUS 28: 29

"In this way, Aaron will carry the names of the tribes of Israel on the sacred chestpiece over his heart when he goes into the Holy Place. This will be a continual reminder that he represents the people when he comes before the Lord. NLT

Insert the Urim and Thummim into the sacred chestpiece so they will be carried over Aaron's heart when he goes into the Lord 's presence. In this way, Aaron will always carry over his heart the objects used to determine the Lord 's will for his people whenever he goes in before the Lord. Exodus 28:30 NLT

The Urim (Light) and Thummim (perfection) was inscribed into the sacred chest piece (breastplate) and all are together on the ephod (like a linen garment). The priest wears this everytime, over his heart as he goes before the Lord's presence. Aaron, wears this to determine the will of God on behalf of the people. He is standing as the representative of the people before the Lord, bearing their names and judgement on his heart to seek God's will.

This description strikes an imagination of the reality we have in Christ Jesus. While we stand to pray and worship the Lord, we lift up our hands towards him by faith and in our heart, words of adoration and diverse request is spoken through our mouth as we pray and seek God's will. The Levites found themselves as Moses command God's blessing upon their lives in a privileged position. All through their lives on earth, their tribe was sold out unto God as ministers and priest.

Our life in Christ Jesus isn't an exception. Revelation 1:5-6 affirmed that while Jesus saved us from sin through his resurrection from the dead, he gave us a destiny. Let's read; and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, and hath made us **kings and priests** unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen. Revelation 1:5-6 KJV

Please, read those verses once again. He made us kings and priest unto God and his Father, haven washed us from our sins by his own blood and loved us with an everlasting love. Therefore, the priesthood left the shoulders of a tribe and one man (Aaron) to the commitment of all who have been called in the ever-living High Priest of our faith (Jesus Christ, the righteous judge). All who have been washed by his blood are found in this destiny, as the kings and priest of God. We all have the right into his presence by faith to receive his will and counsel for our lives, family and the generation to come. Are you living in the reality of your destiny in Christ Jesus?

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, I rise as one who have been privilege by your mercies to be called your own: I pray today that my life become the exact picture of your death and resurrection in deeds and acts. I live in the fulfillment of Christ' will on earth in Jesus' name. Amen

WEDNESDAY, 21ST JUNE 2023

TOPIC: THE COUNSEL OF HIS WILL I

TEXT: NUMBERS 27:21

And thou shalt put some of thine honour upon him, that all the congregation of the children of Israel may be obedient.

The Lord instructed Moses to lay his hands and anoint Joshua the son of Nun in his stead to lead the children of Israel to the promised land (Numbers 27:18). He was asked to set Joshua before Eleazer the priest and before all the congregation, to give him a charge and put some of the honor upon him on him, that the people might learn to obey him (Numbers 27:19-20). Moses acted according to the instruction of God. However, the Lord gave a further instruction in Numbers 27:20, it says;

And he shall stand before Eleazar the priest, who shall ask counsel for him after the judgment of Urim before the LORD: at his word shall they go out, and at his word they shall come in, both he, and all the children of Israel with him, even all the congregation. KJV

The Lord instructed Moses to command Joshua to stand before Eleazer the priest, who is to ask counsel for him after the judgement of the Urim and at this counsel, Joshua and the people are to command their dealings. Thus, Eleazer as a priest is committed to give counsel, instruction in God's will to Joshua and the people. He is the custodian of God's counsel to Joshua and the congregation. At his word, the whole congregation is to go out and come in. This also implies that, without the judgement of the Urim, the people will lack direction and counsel. Let's read other translation;

When direction from the Lord is needed, Joshua will stand before Eleazar the priest, who will use the Urim—one of the sacred lots cast before the Lord —to determine his will. This is how Joshua and the rest of the community of Israel will determine everything they should do." Numbers 27:21 NLT

Therefore, before Joshua would take any step, it is important for him to consult the priest, who will ask counsel of the Lord through the Urim. This will help him to guide his affairs right before the Lord. Thus, the duties of the priest is an important aspect of the leadership of Joshua. Do you know that your life is important to your family, generation, nation and God? As new creation in Christ Jesus, made as Kings and Priest, we have the right to receive counsel from God not just for our lives but on behalf of others. It is our responsibility to receive the counsel of God's will and dispense the same understanding to others. Dear child of God, you are not supposed to live in ignorance of what the will of the lord is. Ephesians 5:17 says not to be unwise but understand what the will of the Lord is. Take advantage of God's Spirit in you.

PRAYER

Thank you, Father. I bear your light and truth; therefore, I ask that you cloth me with your grace to live in your counsel and lead others in the same in Jesus' name. Amen

THURSDAY, 22ND JUNE 2023

TOPIC: THE COUNSEL OF HIS WILL II

TEXT: JOSHUA 9:14

And the men took of their victuals and asked not counsel at the mouth of the LORD. KJV

Joshua started with his leadership pretty well as the Lord instructed him through Moses his servant. They had defeated Jericho and Ai while they marched on in victory. The noise of their fame spread abroad and the nations around them lived in fear of the God of Israel. In the midst of this, the Gibeonites realised that they were no march for the Israelites, thus they came up with a deception.

They decided to feign themselves as travellers, who has been on a journey for long. They wore old clothes, put in their bags muddy bread and victual inorder to convince Joshua that they were from a far country and needed their help to make peace with them. They deceived Joshua with these words;

And they said unto him, From a very far country thy servants are come because of the name of the LORD thy God: for we have heard the fame of him, and all that he did in Egypt, and all that he did to the two kings of the Amorites, that were beyond Jordan, to Sihon king of Heshbon, and to Og king of Bashan, which was at Ashtaroth. Wherefore our elders and all the inhabitants of our country spake to us, saying, Take victuals with you for the journey, and go to meet them, and say unto them, We are your servants: therefore now make ye a league with us. Joshua 9:9-11KJV

Joshua fell for their deception through their appearance and their speech. Thus, he made a league with them and took their victuals. 'And the men took of their victuals and asked not counsel at the mouth of the LORD. And Joshua made peace with them, and made a league with them, to let them live and the princes of the congregation swore unto them.' Joshua 9:14-15 KJV. After three days, Joshua and the congregation of Israel found out that they were deceived but couldn't reverse the agreement because they were bounded by the words of oath.

Do you remember that Joshua was expected to seek the Priest and ask for counsel before taking any step? But here, he didn't and was successfully deceived. He failed to consult the counsel of the Lord. Dear believer, God's will is important and his counsel regarding every aspect of your life is crucial. You have his Holy Spirit (light and perfection) in you. Allow him to guide your steps, it will save you from the deception of the enemy. The Urim and Thummim on the heart of the priest, the Levite, make him the carrier of God's presence and will per time. The same is for us as believers, we are called and separated by God's Holy spirit, thus, we carry God's presence everywhere and at all times. Seek his will always!

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, thank you for giving me your Holy Spirit to lighten my path and keep me in your perfect will. Help my heart to seek your counsel and receive the wisdom of the Holy Spirit through his witness in my heart and the word of God in Jesus' name. Amen

FRIDAY, 23RD JUNE 2023

TOPIC: ASK FOR HIS WILL I

TEXT: 1SAMUEL 23:9

And David knew that Saul secretly practised mischief against him; and he said to Abiathar the priest, Bring hither the ephod. KJV

The ephod as we have learnt is the garment upon which the breastplate and the Urim and Thummim is inscribed. The priest put on the ephod on his chest, bearing the names of the twelve tribes of Israel before God. Thus, the Lord command his people to seek counsel before the priest who bear the Urim and Thummim for judgement. Yesterday, we studied the effect of not receiving counsel by the direction of the Urim from the priest, the Levite. Joshua and the people fell for deception and acted contrary to God's will because they fail to seek the counsel of God.

David, a man dedicated to the service of God, understood the position of the priest, the Levite as the custodian of God's will and counsel. He took advantage of this at a critical time in his life. He was under the seige placed over him by Saul, the King. Seeking refuge for his life and that of the men that was with him, he found himself in a difficult situation where it was necessary for him to make the right decision in order to save himself and the life of his men.

Before this incidence in 1Samuel 23:9, David visited the city of the priest called, Nob, while he fled before King Saul. He met Ahimelech the priest, who gave him the sword of Goliath whom he killed and also food to sustain him on his journey. Unfortunately, King Saul heard about this and all the priests with their properties were utterly destroyed except for one of the priest's son, Abiathar, who escaped to David in the wilderness, with the ephod in his hand (1Samuel 22:6-23).

Thus, while David and his men went to save the land of Keilah from the Philistines sword, Saul, the king heard of him and made his way to strike since the city was fenced roundabout with wall which will make it difficult for David and his men to escape. Having perceived this mischief and danger, David needed to make the right decision. Thus, he asked Abiathar the son of the priest to bring the ephod inorder to receive the counsel of God. The Lord responds to David saying;

Will the men of Keilah deliver me up into his hand? Will Saul come down, as thy servant hath heard? O LORD God of Israel, I beseech thee, tell thy servant. And the LORD said, He will come down. Then said David, Will the men of Keilah deliver me and my men into the hand of Saul? And the LORD said, they will deliver thee up. 1 Samuel 23:11-12 KJV

With this counsel, David knew what step to take. He and his men left Keilah and was saved from the hand of Saul. Dear believer, you cannot thrive successful without seeking out the will of God. You are a custodian of God's spirit, wherein dwells light (Urim) and perfection (Thummim). Ask for God's counsel before making decisions. It will save you time and resources.

PRAYER

Lord, I ask that you deliver me from every spirit of deception that seems to make seeking your will cumbersome for me. Pour your light and grace upon my path in Jesus' name. Amen

SATURDAY, 24TH JUNE 2023

TOPIC: ASK FOR HIS WILL II

TEXT: 1SAMUEL 30:7

And David said to Abiathar the priest, Ahimelech's son, I pray thee, bring me hither the ephod. And Abiathar brought thither the ephod to David. KJV

On another occasion, David haven left his family and that of his men at their stronghold in Ziklag to war, the Amalekites came and took their wives and children captives with all their belongings. They came back and met their city in destitute. They all wept till their strength was gone. The men being in much anguish and sorrow of heart, poured their emotions on David, they went as far as wanting to stone him. But David, encouraged himself in the Lord (1Samuel 30:1-6)

He was faced with another challenge, he demanded that Abiathar, the priest bring before him the ephod to ask for God's will and receive counsel on the right step to take. Thus, he spoke;

And David enquired at the LORD, saying, Shall I pursue after this troop? shall I overtake them? And he answered him, pursue: for thou shalt surely overtake them, and without fail recover all. 1 Samuel 30:8 KJV

With this counsel and wisdom, David went after the raiders and just as the Lord had said, he overtook and recover all without fail. There are two major lessons here, first; it is important that we seek the counsel of God over and over again. David didn't assume that because God at one time gave him a positive counsel, this will also be positive. He sought God again and ensure that he received direction.

Second, Distress, challenge and anguish of heart is not an excuse to act without asking God on what to do. David laid aside his emotions, wiped his tears, left his men behind, separated himself unto God, demanded for the ephod and receive direction from God. Do not be deceived, in any situation you find yourself, learn to differentiate your emotion from practical actions. Cry if need be but go back to God for counsel before taking any step.

Dear child of God, just as the Levite occupy a very sensitive position before God, you have in you the beauty that makes a Levite different from every other tribe in Israel. You are made the priest of God in Christ Jesus. God has given you his Holy Spirit whose light will direct your heart in God's perfect will. He is all of God in a man that makes him a representative of God. Seek the Lord God, whose presence you bear.

PRAYER

Thank you, Father for wisdom, counsel, might, and power belong to you. I do not despise the truth and reality that I am a custodian of your spirit and wisdom. I refuse to bow to my emotions, rather I separate myself to seek your counsel and receive practical wisdom from the Spirit of wisdom inside of me. I am not stranded, not anymore in Jesus' name. Amen

SUNDAY, 25TH JUNE 2023

TOPIC: A LIFE OF SACRIFICE

TEXT: DEUTERONOMY 33:9

Who said unto his father and to his mother, I have not seen him; Neither did he acknowledge his brethren, Nor knew his own children: For they have observed thy word, And kept thy covenant. KJV

Moses continued with his blessings upon the tribe of Levites after he established that God make them the custodian of his Urim and Thummim (which we have studied and draw up several lessons for the past days). Also, He pointed out as a measure of blessing that the Levites, observed God's word and kept his convenant. Which means that they didn't fail God in their responsibility even when it cost them great sacrifice as they live as one sold out to God. To appreciate this portion of blessing, let's read the New living translation;

The Levites obeyed your word and guarded your covenant. They were more loyal to you than to their own parents. They ignored their relatives and did not acknowledge their own children. Deuteronomy 33:9 NLT

The Levites, as a result of the sensitivity of their position and assignment before God, they ensured that they fulfil God's will to the letter. Moses testified and spelt it out while he blessed them that they obeyed God's word and kept his convenant and were more loyal to the God, who called and choose them unto the service of his name than they were to their parents and relatives.

Over time, history has shown that when a man get a hold of the will of God for his life sometimes, the parents and relatives are ignorant of this and there is always a form of trouble or another. Such man will have to take his stand firmly inorder to fulfil God's purpose for his life. We have many example of great men of God, who rose to obey God in the midst of sharp contention and rejection. The list is inexhaustive!

We have an example of David, who against the judgement of his brothers, went ahead to appear before King Saul according to the will of God for his destiny to silent Goliath of Gath, who defied the armies of the living God. In most cases, there is a price to pay to serve God whole heartedly. The enemy has the culture to raise up system, standard and logical opposition against God's will. Thus, men are now faced with the decision to either fufil God's will or bow to the will of their parents, relatives or society. But we see that the Levites choose God and lived as though they had no biological parents. God called them and they follow.

God has choose and called you in Christ Jesus. Be sold out to serve your Lord and Saviour. Pay the cost of serving Jesus, make the sacrifice. It's worth it! Your parents will later accept your stand and belief in Christ Jesus. Don't back out.

PRAYER

Lord, for you are my help in time of trouble. Be thou my guide in the days of trouble, strengthen me to fix my gaze on you and not be moved by the noise of many around me. Teach me to understand that you alone matter in the decision of destiny not man. For you alone are stable and consistent, help me to do your will at all costs in Jesus' name. Amen

MONDAY, 26TH JUNE 2023

TOPIC: BE ON THE LORD'S SIDE I

TEXT: EXODUS 32:26

then Moses stood in the gate of the camp, and said, Who is on the LORD 's side? let him come unto me. And all the sons of Levi gathered themselves together unto him. KJV

In following God whole heartedly, we might need to make difficult decisions. One of the striking attitude displayed by the Levites, which necessitated Moses testimony in his blessing over the tribe was recorded in Exodus 32:26-29. The Levites in a controversial situation, took the step to be on the Lord's side. The sacrifice they paid was huge!

Moses was on the mount with the Lord and the people under the direction of Aaron had compromised their faith. They pressed Aaron till he carved out an iron structured as a god. They boldly referred to this idol as the God who brought them out of Egypt. The Lord saw this and asked Moses to go down and see how that the people had disobeyed his voice and forgot his hands in their midst. (Exodus 32:1-6)

Moses came them and his anger wax hot. He threw down the idol, grind it into powder, poured it in the water and asked the people to drink the water. After which, he made a declaration to find out which of the tribes was not a party to the idol that was made and was still standing in obedience to the living God. Alas, only the tribe of Levi stood out. Apparently, they didn't agree to what the people did but since the voice of the majority ruled over Aaron's will, they were there watching and feeling sorry for all that was happening. (Exodus 32: 15-26

Thus, Moses gave them the costly task to go in, from tent to tent and kill every man that worshipped the idol. They didn't know this beforehand, they only came out to show that their hearts were still in line with the God of Israel. What will the Levites do? Will they obey this to express that truly they are standing on the Lord's side? They did, they were true to their convinction, and they obeyed Moses. (Exodus 32:26-28)

The situation is definitely different in our days. You do not need to kill a man to show that you are on the Lord's side. On the contrary, the word of the Lord told us that we will be persecuted and afflicted for our faith in Christ. We should expect indignation against our lives because we trust in the Lord. But one thing must be on your heart, the importance of standing on the Lord's side. Do not compromise your convinction in any situation because of shame or pride. Be that man, who will declare, If I perish, I perish!

PRAYER

Father, I ask that you strengthen my heart and faith in you. Let it be like a gold in the furnace, which will come out bright and shining. I refuse to be a soft-landing Christian, whose faith disappear in the midst of opposition. Cause me to take a stand for you always and in challenging situation in Jesus' name. Amen

TUESDAY, 27TH JUNE 2023

TOPIC: BE ON THE LORD'S SIDE II

TEXT: NUMBERS 25:12

Wherefore say, Behold, I give unto him my covenant of peace: KJV

There is an eternal blessing when we stand with the Lord without changing position. Numbers chapter twenty and five recorded the children of Israel whoredom with Baal poer. They joined themselves with the people of Shittim and worship the God of the Moabites. They polluted themselves with their traditions and followed their penicious way, sacrificing to these gods while they turned their backs against the Living God, who brought them out of Egypt and despise his holy law, given to them.

In the midst of these, while the people have been upbraided by Moses, they stood before the tabernacle to confess their sins and amend their ways before God yet, one of the children of Israel with no sense of guilt and reverence for God, brought a midianitish woman and took her in to his house to commit whoredom. Phineas, a priest, who is a Levite, went in before this man and the woman, struck them to death. With his action, God's wrath was abated and the plague upon the people stayed (Numbers 25:1-9)

God inturn spoke to Moses concerning the action and boldness of Phinehas. 'And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, Phinehas, the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, hath turned my wrath away from the children of Israel, while he was zealous for my sake among them, that I consumed not the children of Israel in my jealousy. Wherefore say, Behold, I give unto him my covenant of peace: and he shall have it, and his seed after him, even the covenant of an everlasting priesthood; because he was zealous for his God, and made an atonement for the children of Israel.' Numbers 25:10-13 KJV

God called Phinehas action_ Zealousness. And as a result, he received God's convenant of peace for an everlasting priesthood which spans to his seeds after him. You will agree with me that Phinehas made a tough decision. Amidst everyone, who just overlooked the way and manner the people of Israel make a mockery of God's will amidst them, He took his life in his hand to take an action inorder to avert the plague upon the whole assembly.

You don't need to kill anyone in this present time. But you will need to make the decision to stand out amidst thousands for the Lord your God. Rather than to kill others, you should expect to be afflicted, persecuted and maybe killed for your faith in Christ Jesus. Let me ask; 'What do you have to lose anyway?' As for me, there is nothing to lose. Just as Apostle Paul declared, "To live is Christ and to die is gain, whether we live or die, we are the Lord'. Be true to your faith!

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, I cry out for your mercy, that Christ may dwell in my heart by faith. That you will strengthen me with might by the Spirit in the inner man according to the riches of your grace. That I may be bold to stand for the truth of your word and glory of your name in Jesus' name. Amen

WEDNESDAY, 28TH JUNE 2023

TOPIC: FEAR THE LORD I

TEXT: MALACHI 2:5

My covenant was with him of life and peace; and I gave them to him for the fear wherewith he feared me, and was afraid before my name. KJV

Malachai, the prophet reiterate the word of blessing and peace that came to Phinehas, the Levite as we studied yesterday. He spoke of it as God's blessing that cannot be change because of the fear of God in him. Let's read the verse in New living translation;

"The purpose of my covenant with the Levites was to bring life and peace, and that is what I gave them. This required reverence from them, and they greatly revered me and stood in awe of my name. Malachi 2:5 NLT

Did you read that carefully? Prophet Malachai in his words established that God's convenant with the Levite has a purpose, it is to bring them peace and life, however, it will cost them somethings, which we observe in Phinehas' action. This covenant required him to reverence God, the prophet testified that they did so. They stood in awe of God.

With all certainty, we can say that Phinehas feared the Lord'. It was the fear of God in his heart that orchestrated his decision and action. He couldn't allow anyman to desecrate the command of God especially in the face of a destructive plague which broke out on the people. He acted in awe of God and shun the consequences.

How much do you fear God? Is his reverence your preference? What have you and will you forgo for God's will to continue to thrive in your life and around you? The knowledge of the subject Economics, unveil what is known as a scale of preference, where needs are written down in order of preference. The two factors are scarcity and choice. The fear of God is scare among men who are named with the name of Christ, will you make the choice to stand for him just as it is required of a Levite? One who bear the honor of God, chosen to serve him in holiness and righteousness.

I trust God that you won't shrink in the face of adversity and challenge. You will be bold to take your life in your hands, leave it there before the Lord, who fights for his saints. Trusting that you are sharing in the sufferings of Christ. Count it all joy when you face trial in the name of the Lord. Suffer as a Christian not as a busy body in other men matters. Sanctify the Lord' God in your heart, let him be your fear and dread.

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, enable me to walk in your fear all the days of my life. Quicken my heart to leap in accordance to your reverence. Help me to make the glory of your name my priority in Jesus' name. Amen

THURSDAY, 29TH JUNE 2023

TOPIC: FEAR THE LORD II

TEXT: MALACHI 2:6

The law of truth was in his mouth, and iniquity was not found in his lips: he walked with me in peace and equity, and did turn many away from iniquity. KJV

The Prophet continued in his revelation as regards the Levites. He established in his words the extent to which they fulfilled the purpose God has for them in that he gave them an everlasting covenant of peace and life. Let's read the New living translation;

They passed on to the people the truth of the instructions they received from me. They did not lie or cheat; they walked with me, living good and righteous lives, and they turned many from lives of sin. Malachi 2:6 NLT

The Levites didn't fail in their assignment before God towards the people. They taught he people the exact instructions they received from God, they didn't lie about God's word or cheat. They lived righteous and good life, turning many away from their sins. These revelations corroborate the blessings with which the man of God, Moses proclaimed concerning the Levites, as we started with some days ago. We stopped at Deuteronomy 32:9, let's read verse 10;

They shall teach Jacob thy judgments, And Israel thy law: They shall put incense before thee, And whole burnt sacrifice upon thine altar. Deuteronomy 33:10 KJV

While they lived a sacrificial and committed life before God, their duties is to teach God's people his words and communicate his instruction without fear. Prophet Malachai attestate that they did that without shrinking back. They didn't tilt God's truth for the fear of the people. They passed on to the people the truth of God's instruction.

Many have their mouth closed inorder to fit into the society. The instruction of God to all his children in Romans 12:2 is not to conform to the world but be transformed by the renewing of our mind inorder to determine and choose what is good, acceptable and perfect will of God.

Don't allow the world to shape you into his mould. Receive grace which is available on a daily basis before the throne of God to live holy, righteous and just before the Lord your God. Pass the same instruction to others without fail. Remember, you are the custodian of his will, his ambassador on earth.

PRAYER

Lord, strengthen me in the face of subtle conformation to the world. Quicken my heart to discern between good and near good. Open my heart to follow your will in matters that seems harmless and yet not profiting to my identity in you. Please, Lord, grant me mercy to stand in righteousness all the days of my life in Jesus' name. Amen

FRIDAY, 30TH JUNE 2023

TOPIC: BLESSING ON THE LEVITES

TEXT: DEUTERONOMY 33:11

Bless, LORD, his substance, And accept the work of his hands: Smite through the loins of them that rise against him, And of them that hate him, that they rise not again. KJV

Moses, the man of God, wrap up his blessing on the Levites with prophetic utterance. He identified that the Levites are called unto a work which requires the blessing of God. Thus, he asked that the Lord blessed the work of their hands and fight for them against their enemies (every adversary against the work of their hands). And we must recognise that their work is spiritual not natural even though it is to be carried out naturally. The service of God in his tabernacle is a spiritual work which needs supernatural strength and wisdom. Beyond human strength, it calls for the help and power of God.

Let's read the New living translation of this blessing; Bless the ministry of the Levites, O Lord, and accept all the work of their hands. Hit their enemies where it hurts the most; strike down their foes so they never rise again." Deuteronomy 33:11 NLT

The work of the Levite is a ministry. This will take us to a safe conclusion as we have duly studied and receive of God's wisdom through the story of the Levites. You have a ministry in your hands. The service of God in his house, is a ministry, don't trivialise it. Ministry is not only carried out when you have a physical microphone and pulpit, but also life. An act of service unto God, in dispensing the will of God to men. It involves the law of God (the word of God) taught and lived before men in sincerity and truth. Ministry is God's calling upon all believers all over the world.

We are in the ministry. It's God's assignment and appointment. That we will serve in his tabernacle (the house of God) and bear his vessels night and day, leading the people in worship and reverence before God. All you need is an understanding of who you are in Christ, the assignment of God upon your life (as we have studied so far) and a willingness to obey. We have the Holy Spirit to help us when we are willing to live unto God. Therefore, I counsel that you should fufil your ministry. Serve the Lord God and talk of his words in the gospel to men. Teach it and live it. This is your whole duty, your destiny in Christ Jesus.

PRAYER

Lord, thank you for a blessed month. Your words have come to me with depth of understanding and clarity therefore, I ask that you pour on me the grace to do with immeasurable ability, to walk in the light of your word. I refuse to live an indifferent life. I see myself as a Levite, choosen of God to bear his name before men and lead others into righteousness and truth of his words. I speak of your truth in the roof top and in the house without fear in Jesus' name. Amen

DAILY DEVOTIONAL His Voice Daily Devotional is God's voice reaching you daily through His words.

ABOUT AUTHOR

Mopelola Folashade Oyeniran is a young believer who is saddled with the assignment to bring Cod's words in its simplicity and clarity to the world.



HIS VOICE

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